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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

O gracious God, may the Sun of the morning remind us of the bright hope of Your creation; may the fresh winds of the day suggest Your spirit that moves about us and around us encouraging and enlightening; may the smell of flowers testify to the fragrance of Your love to us; and may the busy world in which we live and work remind us of the responsibilities and the obligations of our service to the Nation. May all the wonder of Your creation, O God, testify to Your many gifts to us and the marvel and miracle of each new day. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Mississippi [Mr. WICKER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WICKER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

This morning the Chair will recognize fifteen 1-minute speeches on either side of the aisle as agreed to by the leadership.

IN HONOR OF FORMER CONGRESSMAN JAMIE WHITTEN

(Mr. WICKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, America laid to rest one of our finest statesmen. Jamie Whitten, a dear friend and colleague to many Members of this House, was remembered in funeral services in Charleston, MS.

Congressman Jamie Whitten served a record 53 years and 2 months in this body, rising to become the long-time dean of the House, and chairman of the Appropriations Committee. However, he never forgot his roots in rural America, serving ably as the chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee and becoming what many referred to as the permanent Secretary of Agriculture.

I knew Jamie Whitten for 28 years, since I served as his page in 1967. Mr. Whitten quietly earned the reputation for always being a gentleman during an era when many public figures gained attention by being flamboyant and divisive. Winston Churchill said that singleness of purpose and simplicity of conduct are powerful attributes of public servants. These were the qualities of Mr. Whitten.

Mr. Whitten was never concerned with seeking the recognition he deserved. Perhaps there will be no monuments erected in his name, but today, across America, there are many quiet legacies he leaves behind.

As one Mississippi newspaper stated yesterday,

Jamie Whitten started his public service career when some Mississippians still had eye-witness memories of the Civil War and only dreamed of one day having electricity in their homes. Today, farms across America are the breadbasket for the world and schoolchildren in rural America can routinely com-

municate from their homes via computers with people halfway around the world.

These are the silent monuments to a man who dedicated his life to this House and to this country. For that, his beloved State of Mississippi and his country will be forever grateful.

AMERICA NEEDS A THIRD POLITICAL PARTY

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the United States trade deficit last quarter reached another record, \$44 billion. In addition, America ran an investment deficit of \$3 billion. Some progress.

While everybody in Washington is talking about this big train wreck, the budget, let us tell it the way it is. The Titanic, that trade deficit, is what is killing American jobs. And the sad fact is, folks, from Japan to Mexico there is no difference between a Democrat and a Republican.

Mr. Speaker, is it any wonder that a majority of the American people do not identify with either of the two major political parties? When it comes to trade, there is not a reasonable program in America on either side of the aisle. America needs an alternative, a third political party. Maybe that is only way we will address some of these issues.

SAVE AND STRENGTHEN MEDICARE

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, the President's appointed trustees have warned that Medicare will go bankrupt by 2002. If we do nothing, seniors' out-of-pocket costs will

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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